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24 July 1972

Lieutenant General Vernon Walters
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear General:

Thank you so much for your nice note and invitation to call dated 15 June. I received it when we returned from a marvelous two-week sojourn in Spain (with a side trip to Tangier so I could get [redacted] to "come with me to the Casbah" -) which we were fortunate enough to squeeze in between summer Army Reserve annual training evaluations and tours. We travelled both ways via "Space Available" - (from McGuire AFB, NJ to Torrejon AFB outside Madrid; return from Torrejon to Dover AFB in Delaware) - and with the 30 day advance booking permitted 06s and above it worked just as we planned! We highly recommend it!

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We were in Washington (at the Shoreham) for the Civil Affairs Association Conference 24-26 June - but the schedule was so tight and the flood waters were so threatening we considered it best not to try to call you Friday afternoon when we arrived - and of course we didn't want to disturb you on the weekend.

I will be in Washington again on 15 August enroute to observe some reserve civil affairs unit training at Fort Bragg (New York based control headquarters I advise). I expect to call on [redacted] in the Pentagon (Deputy Ass't Sec Def - M&RA; a longtime friend, he's interested in obtaining my informal views on certain reserve matters), and I hope to at least chat on the telephone with [redacted] - (Chief Colonels Div - OPO) about my next (possibly last) Army assignment. (I must retire in '76 unless selected for RA Colonel by the board now in session - then '78). We're hoping for a return to the Far East or Southeast Asia in a meaningful roll in early '73; - otherwise we'll ask for a California (Palo Alto is home) or Hawaii spot (any kind) and begin to prepare for the next (civilian) career (whatever that may be) while serving in a more comfortable clime.

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I'm enclosing a copy of my unsolicited reply to the Army Chief of Staff's memo announcing amalgamation of the Military Assistance Officer (MA) and Foreign Area Specialist (FAS) training programs which may interest you.

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I sincerely believe that your firm should begin to take an active interest in the training and utilization of FAOMS officers; not only from the standpoint of improved mutual understanding which would derive for both DOD (Army) and your Agency through exchange utilization of these people in the course of their training and general professional development, but also because they will ultimately provide a very useful skilled manpower pool (even after military retirement) to satisfy special mission or short term project requirements. (Relatively inexpensive too!). Reciprocal loan to DOD of some of your career people may not be a bad idea either. If you don't want to become directly involved at this time perhaps some of your personnel or recruiting people might look into it -

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[redacted] former OSS Det 101 type - [redacted] STAT
[redacted] International & Civil Affairs Directorate STAT
Chief, ODCSOPS, DA., is a Russian FAST grad with continuing personal and professional interest in this program -; he may be the best informal contact if you wish to explore the subject now yourself. I believe [redacted] expects a new assignment soon, so contact should probably be made before long. LTG Richard Stilwell, DCSOPS, DA, is - of course - the prime mover for FAOMS in ODCSOPS I'm sure - and you may wish to make informal inquiries directly to him in connection with other coordination matters.

Sorry this is so long.

I'll try to call - at least from the airport - during my mid-August passage through Washington.

Warm personal regards.

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18 July 1972

SUBJECT: Foreign Area Officer Management System (FAOMS)

Chief of Staff, United States Army
ATTN: DAMI-DSI-T
Washington, D. C. 20310

Sir:

I received my copy of your 19 June 1972 letter (copy enclosed) concerning amalgamation of the MAO and FAS programs yesterday and I feel impelled to respond in order to say that I am absolutely delighted to learn of this decision.

Ever since I completed the FAST program (Chinese) in 1957 I have been disappointed in its implementation from the DA level. I have been able to ensure repeated area specialization related tours of duty in Vietnam and Taiwan - and less directly related but useful tours of duty in CONUS (including my current reserve component advisory assignment) for myself through frequent correspondence and personal contact with OPO and not infrequent "volunteering" for what may have appeared to others to have been less desirable duty assignments (in Vietnam and Taiwan). I have long felt a growing suspicion however, that other FAST graduates may not have had such a variety of area specialization related duty assignments simply because they were not quite as aggressive in seeking them - or perhaps because they feared that failure to follow the traditional branch career pattern might render them less competitive than their contemporaries in the quest for higher rank and senior service school selection. This latter conclusion - or tendency to "follow the crowd" rather than the dictates of logical career "specialization" training and experience - can, it seems to me, only be effectively prevented by strong and constant guidance and supervision from the upper echelons of the DA staff. It appears to me that this is what your recent decision concerning the two programs clearly indicates for the future.

18 July 1972

SUBJECT: Foreign Area Officer Management System (FAOMS)

While I fervently hope that OPCOL will soon find a suitable specialization related assignment for me in the Far East (in response to my recent request), I applaud your amalgamation decision not so much for its direct affect on my remaining active duty years, but rather because I see in your action a clear indication that this important training and selection program is - at long last - to be revitalized and expanded, as it should be, in the interest of enhancing both defense and other government agency effectiveness in implementing the Nixon Doctrine (and all foreign policy objectives) through our many current and potential contacts and activities abroad.

I shall be pleased indeed to render any service of which I am capable in furthering these laudable objectives.

Respectfully,

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UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

19 June 1972

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE OFFICER AND FOREIGN AREA SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

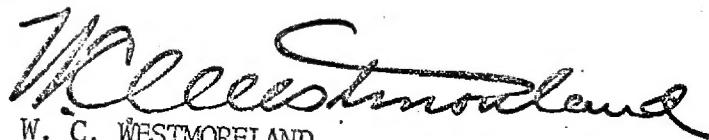
SUBJECT: Amalgamation of the Military Assistance Officer and Foreign Area Specialty Programs

I have recently approved amalgamating the Military Assistance Officer (MAO) and Foreign Area Specialty (FAS) Programs into the Foreign Area Officer Management System (FAOMS). The new system will contribute significantly toward improving the Army's capability to support the Nixon Doctrine and is compatible with the Officer Personnel Management System objective of having each officer possess a primary and secondary developmental area. In addition to notifying you of this decision, I wish to share with you my thoughts on the pending merger.

First, the consolidation of the two programs resulted from their basic similarities. Each is concerned with developing top-quality officers to serve worldwide in command, staff, advisory, and attache positions requiring them to have area expertise, linguistic proficiency, socio-economic and political awareness, and a sound professional military background. Additionally, as these programs have grown, each has become broader in scope and direction. Their merger will further broaden the opportunities for utilization of program members, and will provide the personnel flexibility needed to meet the greatly increased requirements for qualified officers from all branches of the Army to fill key assignments throughout the world.

I have established a steering committee, chaired by a member of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, to monitor and coordinate Army Staff actions which will be required to implement FAOMS. The MAO and FAS Programs will continue in their present form until FAOMS is fully developed and implementing regulations are published. You will be advised periodically of developments associated with the merger and notified of the official date of implementation.

By approving your participation in the MAO or FAS Programs, the Army recognized your great potential value and special capabilities. I am confident you will continue to meet with professionalism the challenges facing the Foreign Area Officer, and send my very best wishes for your success.


W. C. WESTMORELAND
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

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